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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Jordan*, Madagascar*, Mauritania, New Zealand*, Norway*, Poland, Russian Federation, Switzerland*, Turkey*, and United States of America: draft resolution

Human rights and mass exoduses

The Commission on Human Rights

Deeply disturbed by the continuing scale and magnitude of exoduses of refugees and displacements of population in many regions of the world and by the human suffering of millions of refugees and displaced persons,

Recalling its resolution 1993/70 of 10 March 1993 and its previous relevant resolutions, as well as those of the General Assembly,

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* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Noting that the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277-S/24111) identifies the protection of human rights as an important element of peace, security and economic well-being and highlights the importance of preventive diplomacy, identifies the linkage between preventive diplomacy and humanitarian assistance and recognizes that preventive diplomacy requires an early-warning capacity,

Noting also that the concepts and recommendations put forward by the Secretary-General in "An Agenda for Peace" continue to be considered by the General Assembly and consultations in this regard are still taking place, and, in this context, taking note of General Assembly resolutions 47/120 A and B of 18 December 1992 on "An Agenda for Peace",

Noting further that the Secretary-General, in his report on the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations (A/47/595), states that in complex emergencies, humanitarian assistance is essential but must be complemented by measures to address the root causes of such emergencies and that the establishment of the inter-agency consultation on early warning serves the purposes of both prevention and preparedness,

Recalling that the World Conference on Human Rights has recognized that gross violations of human rights, including in armed conflicts, are among the multiple and complex factors leading to displacement of people,

Recalling also that the World Conference on Human Rights recognized that, in view of the complexities of the global refugee crisis and in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, relevant international instruments and international solidarity and in the spirit of burden-sharing, a comprehensive approach by the international community is needed in coordination and cooperation with the countries concerned and relevant organizations and bearing in mind the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, including, inter alia, the development of strategies to address root causes and effects of movements of refugees and other displaced persons and the strengthening of emergency preparedness and response mechanisms,

Welcoming the continuing efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees worldwide, in

particular women and children, who constitute the majority of the world's refugee population and who are often exposed to serious threats to their safety and well-being,

Recognizing that the Commission on Human Rights has a number of mechanisms to address human rights violations, which cause movements of refugees and displaced persons or prevent durable solutions to their plight,

1. Invites again all Governments and intergovernmental and humanitarian organizations concerned to intensify their cooperation and assistance in worldwide efforts to address the serious problems resulting from mass exoduses of refugees and displaced persons, and the causes of such exoduses;

2. Welcomes the endorsement by the General Assembly, in its resolution 41/70 of 3 December 1986, of the call upon all States to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms and to refrain from denying these to individuals in their population because of nationality, ethnicity, race, religion or language;

3. Strongly deplores ethnic and other forms of intolerance as one of the major causes of forced migratory movements, and urges States to take all necessary steps to ensure respect for human rights, especially the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

4. Calls upon special rapporteurs, special representatives and working groups studying situations of violation of human rights to seek information, where appropriate, on problems resulting in mass exoduses of populations or impeding their voluntary return home and, where appropriate, to include such information, together with recommendations thereon, in their reports to the Commission;

5. Requests all United Nations bodies, including the United Nations human rights treaty bodies, the specialized agencies and governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate fully with all mechanisms of the Commission and, in particular, to provide them with all relevant and accurate information in their possession on the human rights situations creating or affecting refugees and displaced persons within their mandates;

6. Notes that the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has specifically acknowledged the

direct relationship between observance of human rights standards, refugee movements, problems of protection and solutions;

7. Welcomes the contributions of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to the deliberations of international human rights bodies, and encourages her to seek ways to make these contributions even more effective;

8. Invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to address the Commission at its fifty-first session;

9. Encourages States that have not already done so to accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol;

10. Urges the Secretary-General to attach a high priority and allocate the necessary resources to the consolidation and strengthening of the system for undertaking early-warning activities in the humanitarian area for the purpose of ensuring, inter alia, that effective action is taken to identify all human rights abuses which contribute to mass outflows of persons;

11. Welcomes the decision by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to establish a regular United Nations inter-agency early-warning consultation and to designate the Department of Humanitarian Affairs as the focal point and facilitator of the consultation;

12. Urges the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to take the necessary steps to function effectively as the focal point of the inter-agency early-warning consultation;

13. Urges all the bodies involved in the inter-agency consultation to cooperate fully in and devote the necessary resources to the successful operation of the consultation;

14. Requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights to pay attention, in the exercise of his mandate, as set out in General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, for preventing the continuation of human rights violations throughout the world, to situations of mass exodus;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Governments, intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations to provide information and to prepare, within existing resources, and submit to the Commission at its fifty-first session a report containing

information and views on solutions that they have found to be effective in the area of mass exoduses, a compilation of information and recommendations from human rights mechanisms on problems resulting in mass exoduses of populations or impeding their voluntary return home and his views on the matters referred to in his report;

16. Decides to continue its consideration of the question at its fifty-first session under the agenda item "Further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the question of the programme and methods of work of the Commission" under the sub-item entitled "Human rights, mass exoduses and the displaced".